Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled. New Claim 5 has been added. Claims 1 and 5 are now in this application. Consideration and allowance of these claims as now presented is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot the rejections thereof.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miksic et al. (U.S. 6,085,905). Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot the claim rejections thereof.

The Miksic et al. '905 patent teaches the use of vapor phase corrosion inhibiting materials (VCI) for disposition in a water-soluble bag. The bag of Miksic et al. '905 is perforated such that vapors from the VCI powders may be emitted from the bag to come into contact, and therefore protect, nearby corrosion-susceptible surfaces. The particular application identified in the Miksic et al. '905 patent is in protecting boilers and water cooling towers by placing the VCI material-containing bag within the out-of-use

(emptied) water vessel. During the time that the corrosion inhibiting treatment is taking place, therefore, no water is maintained within the vessel. When it is necessary to the return the unit to service, the bag and its remaining VCI material contents may be flushed from the vessel through exposure to water.

By contrast, Claim 5 of the present application recites an aqueous solution having between about 0.25% and about 5% by weight of a corrosion inhibitor material solvated therein. As such, the corrosion inhibitor compositions of the present invention are utilized as a protective aqueous solution that is capable of flushing into and through areas in need of corrosion protection in applications where release of vapors from powder-form VCI (such as in Miksic et al. '905) is not feasible.

In addition, amended Claim 1 of the present application specifically recites that the corrosion inhibitor composition is completely water-soluble. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found at page 2 lines 24-32, and in Examples 2 and 4 of the specification as originally filed. Nowhere do Miksic et al. '905 teach or suggest completely water-soluble VCI material. In fact, the compositions described in the Miksic et al. '905 patent would not completely solvate in water. The water-soluble characteristic of the present invention enables the use of a biodegradable corrosion inhibitor material that

may be readily and efficiently removed from application surfaces. As such, Claims 1 and 5 as now presented are clearly distinguishable over Miksic et al. '905, and the claim rejections based thereon should therefore be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miksic et al. '905. Claim 2 has been cancelled, thereby rendering moot the rejection thereof. Moreover, Miksic et al. '905 do not teach or suggest the corrosion inhibiting composition presently claimed. As such, the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, the claims as now presented are believed to be unobvious and patentable over the cited pending claims are allowable on the merits. An early allowance is respectfully solicited prior art. Applicant therefore submits that the presently

Respectfully submitted,

HAUGEN LAW FIRM PLLP

Mark J. Burns, Reg. #46591
Attorney for Applicant
1130 TCF Tower
121 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: (612) 339-8300